

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Ravi Chandar et al.

Serial No.: 09/895,760

Filed: June 29, 2001

Docket No.: 10008058-1

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING COMPUTER ACCESS WITH ELECTRONIC PAYMENT MECHANISM

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed March 29, 2004. Claims 1-12, 14-16 and 18-20 were rejected. Claims 13 and 17 have been objected to. With this Response, claims 1, 11, 12, 16, and 18-20 have been amended. Claims 12 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 1-11, 13-15, and 17 -20 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12, 14-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weidemer, U.S. Patent No. 5,155,680 to Weidemer (Weidemer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,920,432 to Eggers et al. (Eggers). Applicant submits that the Weidemer and Eggers references fail to disclose the invention of independent claim 1.

Amended independent claim 1 recites a method of public access computing including providing a computer system and permitting a user access to at least one of a software application and an input/output device of the computer system. Access is permitted only **after payment authorization has been obtained for the user from a financial instrument reader.**

Weidemer discloses a security software and billing system with an enciphered application program. Eggers discloses a system allowing remote access to a video library from remote locations such as in hotel rooms. Neither reference, discloses a method of public access computing including permitting a user access to a software application or an input/output device of a computer system **only after payment authorization has been obtained for the user from a financial instrument reader.** Accordingly, one could not combine Weidemer in view of Eggers and arrive at the invention of independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection of independent claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 11 recites a method of public access computing including providing a computer system and displaying a user interface on a display of the computer system including a representation of the at least one software application of the computer system while preventing access to the at least one software application. The

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method also includes **electronically reading a financial instrument** and obtaining electronic payment authorization for the financial instrument to permit access to the at least one software application based on payment authorization.

Neither Weidemer nor the Eggers discloses, either alone or in combination, a method for providing access and displaying a representation of at least one software application device of a computer system, including **electronically reading a financial instrument** and obtaining electronic payment authorization for a financial instrument to permit access to the at least one software application based on payment authorization. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection of independent claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 18 recites a selective access computer system including an electronic payment mechanism including **a reader configured for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument**. The system has at least one input/output device and a computer workstation. A user interface is provided for permitting access to at least one of the software application and the input/output devices only upon payment authorization through the electronic payment mechanism.

Neither Weidemer nor Eggers disclose, either alone or in combination, a selective access computer system including an electronic payment mechanism including a reader configured for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection of independent claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 19 recites a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of permitting selective computer system access. The method includes permitting access to at least one of a software application and an input/output device of the computer system only **after payment authorization has been obtained for the user via a financial instrument reader**.

Since neither Weidemer nor Eggers disclose, either alone or in combination, a method includes permitting access to at least one of a software application and an input/output device of the computer system only after payment authorization has been obtained for the user via a

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financial instrument reader. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection of independent claim 19 under 35 U.S.C.-§-103(a) be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 20 recites a computer user interface with a screen saver display configured for appearing when a user is not financially authorized to use the computer system and a desktop display configured for appearing **when a user is financially authorized to use the computer system when authorization is obtained via a financial instrument reader.**

Neither Weidemer nor Eggers disclose, either alone or in combination, a user interface with a screen saver display configured for appearing when a user is not financially authorized to use the computer system and a desktop display configured for appearing when a user is financially authorized to use the computer system when authorization is obtained via a financial instrument reader. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection of independent claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim Objection(s)

Claims 13 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 13 and 17 have now been amended to incorporate base claims 12 and 16 and are therefore now in allowable form.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant believes independent claims 1, 11, 13, and 17-20 and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Jeff D. Limon at Telephone No. (541) 715-5979, Facsimile No. (541) 715-8581 or Steven E. Dicke at Telephone No. (612) 573-2002, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 28 day of June, 2004.

By

Steven E. Dicke

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